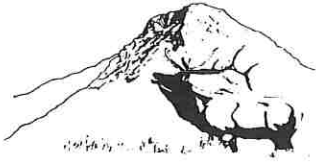


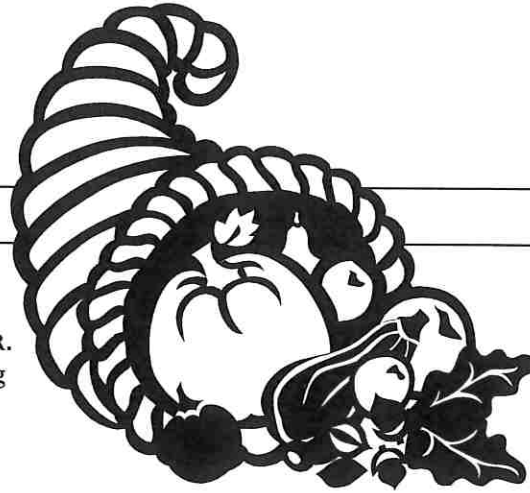
November 2003



Elk Ridge Bugle

Andrea Muhlestein - Editor

Message from the Mayor.....



Several concerns have been expressed regarding WATER. Two full summers ago we were faced with a single well providing the majority of the City's water. The secondary well dropped from 400 to 175 gpm and an uncertain future. By conservation and careful water management by citizens we were able to get through the summer of 2002.

"Getting through" one summer is one thing but what of the future? Two smaller other wells provided only 45 gpm each. We drilled a replacement well resulting in generous capacity and have thus overcome the initial problem but, what of the future? Additionally, how does one pay for a new well? "Is the new well for new development?" Answer: We can add 91 connections given our current circumstances. There are more than that number of approved lots in the city right now to say nothing of growth.

Some say we have no need for growth therefore if we have sufficient water let's close the doors. Do we want to become isolated? If the city doesn't annex the land lying north of our current borders then Payson or Salem certainly will. We then would have no control over the kind of development. It would be wiser to become proactive, annex the land north and be in a position to control the type of development. "Affordable housing" is an issue to think about.

Why were water rates raised? Two years ago the annual accounting of the city's finances indicated that we were not charging sufficient user fees to meet the maintenance and contingency requirements to assure the city's ability to provide water. It was a serious deficiency. An aging distribution system eventually must be repaired or replaced with a cost.

With my encouragement the Council increased the base rate to \$40/mo. Plus a tiered rate as volume increased. The intent of the tiered level was two-fold: 1) to meet future financial needs 2) to encourage conservation in an unknown water year. If there is blame to be handed out, I accept the criticism but I'd like to explain my thinking regarding the water needs of Elk Ridge. The new well has more than met the city's current water needs, it has exceeded them. The increased revenue has placed us in a position to address current and future concerns. Presently the Cloward well (north) is used only during the summer but represents a backup source in the event of losing our primary well in Loafer Canyon. If we lost the Loafer Canyon well there is no way to put water into the upper tank which services the upper reaches of the city. We are now installing a system that will permit us to pump water from the Cloward well source via the lower tank to the upper tank. The new well is capable of pumping up to 1800 gpm (1233 legally) but because of the six inch size of the distribution pipe only 425 gpm can be utilized. That is insufficient to meet the city's needs if we lost the Loafer Canyon well. As a consequence of that risk I recommend we spend approximately \$100,000 +/- to increase the pipe size from the Cloward well to ten inches which will give us about 750 gpm capability. This increased capacity is for current needs not development.

Future needs: There will be growth in Elk Ridge. The property being considered for annexation will need water. The excess capacity of the Cloward well will be the probable main source of water for new development which will pay a large part of the cost of the new well through impact fees. We must consider the future also. The city needs an additional storage tank to meet fire suppression flow requirements for new development and backup for existing residences. Development will pay a large share of that cost but some will be paid for out of our current user fees.

An additional consideration: Without growth or a failed well, the city has sufficient water for its needs currently. As growth occurs in the valley below, a greater demand on the aquifers may jeopardize our ability to meet the city's needs. It is my intention to push for a third source of water before I leave office. Why? It's my opinion that the city must establish its right to draw from a third aquifer or source before the demands of the valley prevent us from being able to drill a third well. I have no proof that we could be cut off from a new source but I'm unwilling to wait and see. A new well and storage tank can easily exceed a million dollars. Some might be paid for with cash, which our current rates will generate but the greater part will come from debt. We may also join Payson in the creation of a new well and tank or we may drill only the well and share a tank. If we drill a new well that provides water in excess of our needs we would willingly sell some of it to help reduce our debt but would retain the right for its use in the future. An argument can be made that we can reduce our user fees right now. I want to reduce the tiered rates but I am also charged with planning for the future. We have plenty of water! Even in a year in which we had record temperatures we met our needs. I do however encourage you to consider the future needs and possible contingencies that could place us in peril.

There is no single necessity greater than adequate water resources. The future is certain, more people are going to arrive and there will be increased demands upon underground water. Right or wrong, I prefer to error on the side of extra water than less, but it comes with a cost.

HOW VALUABLE IS YOUR TIME?



*Volunteers who help
Others to read spend
A very small amount
Of their own time (2-3
hours a week) and help
someone else achieve an
extremely important skill. I
have helped a young man
who somehow missed out on*



F.Y.I.

We now have a notary in the office. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9-3. Any questions, please call Andrea 423-2300.

**UTAH COUNTY
BOOKMOBILE**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH
11:00 – 1:00
SALEM HILLS DR. & MAPLE LANE**

LOOKING FOR GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

Plan to purchase EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ITEMS for your families. They are available with this months City Buy. We strongly encourage you to consider purchasing **communication equipment:** walkie-talkies and am/fm multi-powered radios. Our city has just completed its Communications Plan and walkie-Talkies and ham radios are the basis for our ability to communicate. With our groups, neighborhoods, city offices, and state agencies in the emergency or disaster if the power is out. Handouts will be arriving at your door with information on this months City Buy. The following items are being offered: walkie-talkies, am/fm radios, broad band radios, garden seeds, flashlights, sleeping bags, mylar blankets, light sticks, hand and foot warmers, body warmers. Most items will be at the city offices for viewing. If you need more information please call Claudette Echols at 423-1127. If you have not received a handout with complete information on this City Buy by November 7th please contact your neighborhood captain or neighborhood chairman. It is their responsibility to deliver this information.



ELECTION RESULTS!

1. MARK JOHNSON.....267
2. ALVIN HARWARD....282
3. SEAN NIELSEN.....234
4. MICHAEL ASHTON...171
5. MARY RUGG.....259
6. NELSON ABBOTT..... 98

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEW COUNCILMEMBERS:
MARK JOHNSON, ALVIN
HARWARD AND MARY RUGG.**

PARKING REGULATIONS DURING WINTER MONTHS:

In order to facilitate the speedy and safe removal of snow from city streets, it is unlawful for the owner or driver of any vehicle to park, cause to be parked or allowed to be parked, said vehicle upon any city street or right-of way of the city street at any time during day or night hours, each year from December 1st through March 1st, of the following year.

“Vehicle” shall be defined to include, but not limited to, automobiles, trucks, trailers, mobile homes, travel trailers, boats, motorcycles, buses, snowmobiles, and other transportation vehicles, whether for the transportation for humans, animals, or freight of any kind.

Violation of this ordinance is a parking infraction. Each day that said vehicle is permitted to continue will be considered a separate offense and/or after twenty-four (24) hours, the vehicle will be towed to a public garage and stored at the owner’s expense.